



**Agenda Item Number: 2005-8-5A**

## **BERNALILLO COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

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**Meeting Date:** August 9, 2005

**Department:** Public Art Program **Staff Contact:** Sherri Olsen, Public Art Program Manager

**TITLE:** 1% for Art - NM Rail Runner Artwork

**ACTION:** Motion to approve:

1. Arts Board recommendation of the artist Charles Dunbar for the NM Rail Runner Windscreen public art project.
2. Arts Board recommendation of the artists Patricia Halloran and Laura Robbins for the NM Rail Runner South Valley ceramic tile public art project.
3. Arts Board recommendation of the artist Erin Magennis the NM Rail Runner North Valley ceramic tile public art project.
4. Authorize County Manager to execute a professional services contract with the recommended artist for the Nm Rail Runner public art projects.

### **SUMMARY:**

The New Mexico Rail Runner commuter rail project is one of the most important public infrastructure projects to affect the region in years. Two of the proposed nine Rail Runner stations are located in the Bernalillo County limits. Both of the county stations are expected to have high levels of both local and tourist users, as they will serve as major connectors to the airport and the Journal Center/Balloon Fiesta park sites. For this reason, the Bernalillo County Arts Board began working with the Mid Region Council of Governments to incorporate public art into the construction of the station.

This large-scale regional project has inspired an unprecedented collaboration among 9 governmental agencies, including the area's council of governments, two counties, four municipalities and two tribal entities. Representatives from each of the entities served on the artwork selection committee for the commuter rail artwork projects. With the direct participation and oversight of the Mid-Region Council of Governments, the Bernalillo County Arts Board is pleased to recommend the following artist and their proposals for the commuter rail public art projects:

Platform Windscreens: Artist Charles Dunbar was recommended by the regional artwork selection committee to provide the design images for the platform windscreens. Mr. Dunbar will work with the communities to select images that will be sandblasted onto the windscreen glass

panels. Upon approval of the county funds for the artists design services, the MRCOG will provide the funds for the fabrication and installation of the artwork enhanced windscreen. Mr. Dunbar's photographic designs will reflect physical elements common to the neighborhoods in which the stations are located. The intent is to provide the Rail Runner rider with a unifying visual element along the entire route, yet celebrate the uniqueness of each community.

South Valley Station Tiled Support Pillars: Artists Team Patricia Halloran and Laura Robbins are recommend for the mosaic tile design work to be placed at the South Valley station. Their design features domestic and wild animals as well as the flora and fauna of the bosque. Both artists will collaborate to develop the final design that will be reviewed by the Arts Board prior to fabrication and installation. The artist intend to utilized both hand-made, sculpted clay tiles and commercially produced mosaic materials such as glass and tiles as well as appropriate found objects from the area.

North Valley Station Tiled Support Pillars: Artists Erin Magennis and Kyle Ray are recommended for the tile design work at the North Valley station. Their design entitled "Rio Rail" features a ribbon of mosaic, intended to accentuate the similarities between the Rio Grande and the commuter rail line. The materials for the north valley "Rio Rail" design will include colored glass and ceramic tiles. The artists state that the colors in the proposed design represent various abstracted elements of the bosque such as the cottonwoods, the water and the rail itself.

The Arts Board recommends approval of the three sets of artists for the various station elements. The Arts Board recognizes the importance of public art incorporated into the station platforms and has selected artists that will reflect the county's commitment to making public spaces in our county more friendly and enjoyable for users of all ages.

Do to the fast pace nature of the construction project, Commission authorization of the County Manager to execute the contracts is being requested to assure that the artwork is completed to coincide with the grand opening of the rail runner project currently slated for December 23, 2005.

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Windscreen Prospectus Call for Artists
2. Artist's Proposal and Resume for Windscreen Project (hard copy only)
3. Tile Prospectus Call for Artists
4. Artists' Proposal and Resume for South Valley Station
5. Artists' Proposal and Resume for North Valley Station

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

In an effort to continue equitable countywide distribution of the accumulated 1% for art funds from the construction of the Metropolitan Detention Center, funding is available for the commuter rail station artwork design and fabrication from the following account:

County 1% for Art: BC09-538230-43JC     \$40,000 total for all three artwork projects (\$20,000 Windscreen design services, \$10,000 each for No. and So. Valley tile projects.)

## **COUNTY MANAGER**

The County's Arts Board and Public Art Program staff have taken the lead to coordinate public art for the regional commuter rail project. Despite the short construction time frame, the Arts Board members and staff have worked diligently and closely with the MRCOG project managers to leverage a significant amount of construction and design funds out of the construction budget to enhance the station platforms, especially the two located within the county. These special public art opportunities required many months of advocacy and coordination. The enclosed artists' proposals will help provide a special experience for commuter rail riders. I recommend approval.

## **DEPUTY COUNTY MANAGER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES**

Throughout the past several months, the County has had a truly unique opportunity to provide public art leadership on such a large regional project. The coordination efforts between the MRCOG staff, county staff and the various jurisdictions have resulted in three beautiful artwork proposals that can be accomplished with a modest investment by the county. Community participation and Arts Board leadership is to be commended. I recommend approval.

## **LEGAL**

The procurement of the public art complies with applicable law. The Legal Department will assist the County Manager and Program Manager in developing a Professional Services Contract that adequately protects the County's interests. Approved as to form. JSL 08/03/05

## **FINANCE**

<b>Budget</b>	Funding from the Metropolitan Detention Center bond funds (BC09) is available from 1% for the Arts funding made available from General Obligation bond proceeds per Bernalillo County Ordinance 97-5. Maria Zuniga, Financial Projects Coordinator, 8/3/05
<b>Purchasing</b>	Proper procurement procedures were followed. Billie Baca, Senior Buyer, 08/03/2005
<b>Contracts</b>	Contract control number will be assigned once executed by County Manager. Billie Baca, Senior Buyer, 08/03/2005